



Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

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General Information

What are the reasons for making yearly changes for the student data submissions (i.e., changing ethnic codes this year from 3 = Black and 6 = Pacific Islander to 3 = Pacific Islander and 6 = Black)?

Requests for changes in the student demographic data collected each year are given to the contractor by the CDE. The ethnic code change that is referenced as an example was made to align the STAR Program data collection with the codes used within the California Student Information System and the California Basic Educational Data System. Districts and schools should expect to see some additional changes during the next couple of years as all California programs are aligned with changing federal requirements.

Why can't districts have the same label system for all assessments?

Different information is needed for various assessment programs; however, the CDE is working with contractors to ensure that pre-ID files are aligned with each other.

SB 233 repeals the Ed Code section reimbursing districts for expenses incurred in administering STAR. Is this the pupil testing incentive funding? Can expenses be recovered through mandated cost program?

SB 233 repeals the Ed. Code section that required each district to pay for the testing materials and to be reimbursed by the state for those costs. It does not repeal the per pupil tested apportionment that districts receive for administering the tests.

Districts may apply for mandated costs for expenses related to administering the tests that exceed the \$2.20 per student apportionment, but any items being claimed must be thoroughly documented.

If districts fill a document out for every student, are they reimbursed for every student?

The district apportionment will be based on the number of students tested not the number of students enrolled. Districts will not receive an apportionment for completing demographic data for students who are not tested.

Where can districts find a list of the content standards that are important enough to be tested annually? This way districts could make sure they are taught and learned.

The SBE and the STAR Content Review Panels want to emphasize that all standards must be taught to proficiency every year. While some standards are considered key or essential standards and may be tested with more items, it is essential that the skills and knowledge required for all standards be taught.

Has the Governor's Scholars Program for students been approved for this year?

The Governor's Scholars Program is in place for 2002. See the January 2002 Standards and Assessment Update at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests> for a description of the test requirements for eligibility.

Will the blueprints on the CDE website for the Math and English-Language Arts Standards tests remain the same or will they change for STAR 2002?

The CST blueprints remain unchanged from year to year. The current blueprints have been in place since 1999.

When do changes for history-social science and science exams for STAR take place? 2002 or 2003?

The changes related to history-social science and science exams for the STAR Program are scheduled as follows:

- The grade history-social science norm-referenced tests in grades 9 through 11 will be discontinued in 2003.

- Pending changes in the law through new legislation, it is the intent of the SBE to replace the California History-Social Science Standards Test in grade 9 with a test in grade 8. The test would address history-social science standards for grades 6, 7, and 8. If no legislation is approved, the history-social science test will remain at grade 9.
- The science standards test in grade 5 will be field tested in 2003 and administered for the first time in 2004.

STAR Administration

Is there any place districts could send a small sample SAT/STAR Pre-ID file to see if it is formatted correctly?

District STAR Coordinators receive directions for submitting the Pre-ID file. The directions include directions for labeling and submitting a test file. If a test file includes only a sample of district students, the completed file may still fail edit checks when it is submitted. The completed file may be missing student demographic data and/or the form certifying what will be hand-coded is not submitted.

In addition to the Pre-ID label, will districts manually complete a student data sheet also?

No, an answer document will be completed for every student enrolled on the first day of testing. This answer document may be pre-IDed or hand-coded.

How do high schools schedule their STAR testing dates for students on a block schedule?

Each school should establish testing dates for STAR that are within 10 days before or 10 days after students have completed 85 percent of their instructional year. STAR testing dates for schools within districts may differ to accommodate various types of schedules, but testing dates within a school must be the same.

Are the California Standards Tests (CST) timed or untimed tests? A chart in the staff development guidelines lists test items and testing time for the CST. The footnote under that chart notes that the times are suggested.

All of the California Standards Tests, except for the writing tests in grades 4 and 7, are untimed tests. The times in the chart are provided for planning schedules. Most students will complete the tests within the suggested times; however, students must be given as much time as they need to complete each multiple-choice CST. When all students in the testing group complete a CST, the test examiner should stop the test and collect the materials.

Since the state developed a General Math CST in grade 8, are we backing out of our commitment to place all eighth graders in algebra I?

The SBE is not backing away from its commitment to have all eighth graders complete algebra I. For school accountability purposes, however, it is critical to have all students in grades 8 and 9 complete California Standards Tests. Watch the PSAA website at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa> for information about how the results from the CST math tests will be weighted based on students taking tests below, at or above the level expected for their grades.

Will the English-Language Arts norm-referenced tests be abbreviated (survey battery) in 2003? If not when?

A final decision has not yet been made on this topic. The decision will depend on whether or not the SBE authorizes creating stand-alone California English-Language Arts Standards Tests for 2003.

How should the data verification forms and the pre-ID files be shipped?

Directions to District STAR Coordinators state that data verification forms and pre-ID files should be shipped using a traceable shipping method. This may include U.S. mail with a return receipt, UPS, Fed. Ex. or any other shipping method that allows the coordinator to verify when the package was received.

English Learners

On STAR answer documents, the following are separated into three categories: EL in ELD, EL in Bilingual, and EL in SDAIE. These three categories can be for a student in one program (i.e., Bilingual Program Participation). Why ask for this information in this way?

These three programs are mutually exclusive, and only one is coded for each student. Each of the three programs must include the legally required English Language Development component. The EL in ELD is a student in an English immersion program. EL in bilingual means that the student receives core content in primary language, and EL in SDAIE means that the student is receiving core instruction through a program of specially-designed academic instruction in English.

Why are Spanish-speaking students in structured English immersion or mainstream English programs, who have been enrolled in California schools less than 12 months and who are English learners, required to take SABE2? If these students are being instructed in English, why are we measuring how well these students are learning basic academic skills in Spanish?

California state law requires that all English learners enrolled in California public schools less than 12 months at the time of testing be tested in their primary language, if a test exists and has been designated for use by the State Board of Education.

Special Education/Accommodations

How do districts report the grade level for special education students in an ungraded specialized program that are not taking STAR?

Report the grade level, based on their ages, in which special education students in ungraded programs would be enrolled if they were in the general education program.

Will special education students not tested in 2002 or tested with non-standard accommodations be included in the Far Below Basic category in the content standards for the new 2002 base?

Since the California Standards Tests are criterion-referenced tests, all students tested with and without accommodations are included in the summary data. If the students are tested on grade level, the performance standard each student attained is used in API calculations. At this time, there is no final decision about how to include the scores for students tested out of level or with the alternate assessment in the API calculations.

Will all “out of level test” results for 2002 be reported as Far below Basic?

No decision has been made at this time.

Are the Parent brochures for the CST in any other language besides English?

The parent brochures for the CST are only available in English at this time. The brochures are currently being translated into Spanish, and those translations will be posted on the CDE website when completed.

Scoring

Why only a score of 8 points for the writing sample in grades 4 and 7? As the only non-multiple choice task, shouldn't it be given more weight?

The SBE voted to assign 8 points to the writing test in grades 4 and 7. This was based on recommendations from the English-Language Arts Performance Level Setting Panel and the CDE. Using a score of 8 points means that the writing test is worth approximately 17% of the writing test score (the total writing test score of 48 points is comprised of 40 multiple-choice questions and one writing task).

Will scaled scores be reported for the CST on the parent report for 2002?

The 2002 STAR Parent Reports will include scaled scores and performance standards for the California Standards Tests.

Where can Districts find a clear explanation of the writing scores for grades 4 and 7?

The 2001 STAR Parent Report for grades 4 and 7 had a four-page report with two pages that explained the writing test. The scoring explanation included a table showing all of the possible scores that could occur, based on a combination of scores from two readers. Each reader could assign the student's paper a score between 1 and 4 with 4 being high. The table showed:

Reader 1's Score	Reader 2's Score	Reported Score
1	1	2
1	2	3
2	2	4
3	2	5
3	3	6
3	4	7
4	4	8

Reporting STAR Results

What performance levels will be used to report results of the California General Mathematics Standards Test in grade 8?

A final decision about reporting performance standards for the General Mathematics Test has not yet been made.

Will the two-page Parent Report for the 2002 STAR be stapled?

The 2002 STAR Parent Report will be a two-page report. It will not be stapled, but the student names will be printed in the upper left-hand corner of the second page in case the two pages get separated.

Will retrospective reports on CST scores for 2001 be given to districts on CD or only as paper reports? Will they be in scale scores or cut points?

The 2001 performance standards reports will be only paper copies with schools receiving one copy of the school results and districts receiving only their own school and district results. These reports are designed to give schools some base

information about how well students performed on the tests. The reports are working documents not intended for public release or for establishing a baseline.

Will grade 4 and 7 writing applications results for school level data still be reported?

The school, district, county, and state reports will continue to show the percent of students scoring at each score point 2–8.

Will a general math test taken by a student in grade 10 or 11 by error be scored and reported?

There is no place on the grade 10 or 11 answer document for a student to indicate that he/she took the General Mathematics Test; therefore, the test will not be scored.

Is it illegal to put STAR results on transcripts?

It is legal to put STAR results on transcripts only if parents/guardians sign a release to include them. If a parent does not sign a release for the STAR results, a transcript must be provided without them.

Do high schools receive reports for the California Standards Tests? When can we expect to have one test for high schools combining the STAR and CAHSEE?

The California Standards Test scores are reported on each student's STAR Parent Report and cumulative record label. The results also are reported on the California Standards Test Student List with School Summary. It is not anticipated the California Standards Tests for STAR and CAHSEE will ever be combined into one test.

If a child is administered every section of the Stanford 9 but does not answer any questions, will that test be considered valid for percent of students tested, or will it be discarded as it was this year?

If a student answers no questions on any test within the norm-referenced test battery or a required California Standards Test, the student is counted as not tested for that test.

Using STAR Results

Will the abbreviated version of the norm-referenced test be able to provide content strand information by student or classroom?

Abbreviated or survey batteries generally provide very limited content strand information, for the tests do not contain enough questions to provide this level of detail. Since instructional programs should focus on the California content

standards, component information will be provided for the California Standards Tests. To ensure alignment with state content standards, it is this information that should be used to address how well groups of students are achieving the standards. These scores should be used cautiously; for the small number of items within each component makes it inappropriate to base curricular changes on this information without additional evidence that supports the need for a change. Under no circumstances should the component scores be used alone to make instructional decisions for individual students.

How will the grades 4 and 7 writing be woven into the API?

The grade 4 and 7 writing application tests have been incorporated into the performance standards for these two grades. The total points possible for the California English-Language Arts Standards Tests in these two grades are 98. Ninety points are attributed to the reading and writing components assessed by the multiple-choice portion of the test, and eight points to the writing applications standards that are assessed by the essay portion of the test.